

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 62

Introduced by Assembly Member Galgiani

April 20, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 62—Relative to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 62, as introduced, Galgiani. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease awareness.

This measure would commend the State Department of Health Care Services for implementing and maintaining a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) pilot program and would encourage the department to prepare and submit a report and interim updates to the Legislature regarding the effectiveness of the pilot program and to partner with private entities to improve education regarding COPD.

This measure would also designate November 2009 as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month, and November 18, 2009, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Day in California. This measure would also encourage public officials and the citizens of California to increase awareness of the symptoms of, and the methods of preventing, COPD.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD),
- 2 also known as chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is the fourth
- 3 leading cause of death in the United States and is the only one of
- 4 the top five causes of death whose prevalence and death rate is
- 5 rising; and

1 WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that
2 impacts an estimated 24 million Americans each year,
3 approximately five million of whom are residents of California,
4 and an estimated 1.6 million of whom suffer directly from the
5 disease; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2004, the national annual cost for COPD was
7 estimated to be \$37 billion and in that same year, COPD caused
8 approximately 121,000 deaths nationwide; and

9 WHEREAS, Many patients suffering with COPD are not
10 diagnosed until they have reached an advanced stage of COPD,
11 which often includes a disabling degree of lung dysfunction; and

12 WHEREAS, A diagnostic test for COPD, known as spirometry,
13 is available for office use, allowing early diagnosis of COPD; and

14 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and management of COPD can
15 effectively reduce the overall financial burden of this illness on
16 publicly funded health care programs, including Medi-Cal; and

17 WHEREAS, Achieving early diagnosis and proper management
18 of COPD among California's diverse populations, within the
19 Medi-Cal program as well as other publicly funded health care
20 programs, requires overcoming cultural, language, and literacy
21 challenges; and

22 WHEREAS, Proper management of COPD can lead to an
23 improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for patients who
24 receive publicly funded benefits; and

25 WHEREAS, The "Healthy People 2010" project of the Centers
26 for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of
27 Health concludes that, while primary care physicians are in a key
28 position to provide optimal care to patients with COPD and to
29 provide counseling during clinical or health center visits, primary
30 care physicians need to be trained in the latest methods for
31 diagnosing and treating the disease; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature commends the State
34 Department of Health Care Services for implementing and
35 maintaining a pilot program for chronic disease management of
36 COPD in an effort to identify and recommend means to reduce
37 the financial and clinical burden of COPD upon the Medi-Cal
38 program and the citizens of California; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages the State Department
40 of Health Care Services to provide interim updates on the COPD

1 pilot program, as appropriate, and to prepare and submit a report
2 of its respective findings and recommendations regarding the
3 COPD pilot program to the appropriate committees of the
4 Assembly and Senate, so that the Legislature may evaluate the
5 effectiveness of the program in reducing Medi-Cal costs and in
6 providing improved health and well-being for the affected patients;
7 and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages the State Department
9 of Health Care Services to partner with private entities to improve
10 education regarding COPD; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Legislature designates November 2009 as
12 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month, and
13 November 18, 2009, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
14 Awareness Day in California. The Legislature encourages public
15 officials and the citizens of California to increase awareness about
16 the symptoms of, and the methods of preventing, COPD; and be
17 it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
19 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.